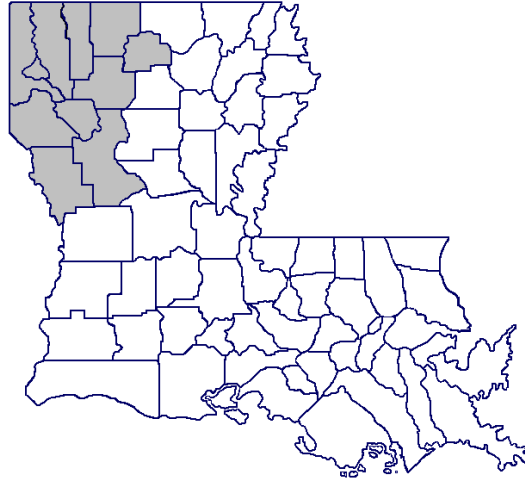


**REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 7
FIRST QUARTER 2003 EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES
SUBJECT TO THE LOUISIANA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW**

Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto,
Lincoln, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Webster



The average quarterly employment for RLMA 7 during first quarter 2003 was 217,090, a decrease of 1.3% from the fourth quarter 2002, and a decrease of 0.7% from the same period in 2002. Employment increased in five of the 20 NAICS sectors from the fourth quarter 2002. The largest percentage increase of 5.0% was in professional and technical services.

Average quarterly employment data for first quarter 2003, fourth quarter 2002, first quarter 2002, and the percent change for the major industry sectors is shown in the table "Average Quarterly Employment" on page 65. Health care and social assistance was the leading industry in RLMA 7 with 38,628 employees, or 17.8% of total employment. Caddo was the leading parish with 117,000 employees, or 53.9% of total employment.

Total wages increased 2.5% from the same period in 2002, and decreased 5.8% from the fourth quarter 2002, for an average weekly wage of \$538.64. Caddo parish had the highest average weekly wage of \$588.07.

Average weekly wage data for each parish in RLMA 7 is listed in the table below. The average weekly wage data for all parishes within each NAICS sector is shown in the table "Regional Labor Market Area 7" beginning on page 68.

| Parish | Avg. Wkly. Wage |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Bienville | \$ 497.87 |
| Bossier | 479.62 |
| Caddo | 588.07 |
| Claiborne | 465.23 |
| Desoto | 557.03 |
| Lincoln | 510.50 |
| Natchitoches | 452.80 |
| Red River | 421.64 |
| Sabine | 430.32 |
| Webster | 469.55 |

The number of reporting units in RLMA 7 for first quarter 2003 was 13,787.

Due to the conversion to NAICS, this data should not be compared to data in publications prior to first quarter 2001.

REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREA 7
MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT

